

THE NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES ARE CELEBRATING THEIR 25TH YEAR IN MINNEAPOLIS



JUNE 27–JULY 1, 2005

For 25 years, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games have given our nation's disabled veterans the chance to excel in sports while improving their health. This exciting annual event has grown from a seven-event meet to the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world. Competitors include experienced, world-class athletes and newly injured first-time participants. Events like basketball, softball and quad rugby are fast-paced competitions with crashing wheelchairs and cheering crowds. The wheelchair "slalom" tests speed and agility around a grueling course, a microcosm of the everyday challenges all wheelchair users face. Gold, silver and bronze medals are presented in Olympic-style fashion, with great fanfare and celebration. Potential media stories are everywhere at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games!

Come see this extraordinary event in Minneapolis this summer!

STORY IDEAS:

SPORTS

- ★ New or experienced athletes and teams
- ★ Wheelchair vs. able-bodied sports (track, field, basketball, softball and others)
- ★ World-class (Paralympic) competitors
- ★ The latest wheelchair sports
- ★ Special exhibition events (trap shooting and golf)
- ★ Local athletes and teams

MILITARY/PATRIOTISM

- ★ Iraqi Freedom veterans
- ★ Military heroes
- ★ Women veterans
- ★ War-injured competitors
- ★ Veterans of different conflicts

HEALTH

- ★ Training for the competitions
- ★ Wheelchair technology/new prosthetic devices
- ★ Spinal cord research
- ★ Wellness for wheelchair users
- ★ Classification system for wheelchair competition

FEATURE/HUMAN INTEREST

- ★ "Kids Day" activities
- ★ Volunteers at the Games
- ★ Planning the Games
- ★ Accessibility in the city
- ★ Special events/ceremonies
- ★ Celebrity visitors
- ★ Corporate sponsors



**The National Veterans Wheelchair Games
are copresented by the Paralyzed Veterans of America
and the Department of Veterans Affairs.**

